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Kernan Awards Grant for Greencastle School to Resurface Playground with Recycled-Content Tiles

INDIANAPOLIS – Students at South Putnam Central Elementary School will soon have a first-hand example of the value of recycling, in the form of a playground surface made from recycled tires.

Lt. Governor Joe Kernan announced today that the Indiana Department of Commerce's Energy Policy Division has awarded the Greencastle school a \$5,000 Recycled Product Purchasing Grant to buy recycled-content rubber tiles for use as a protective surface beneath handicapped-accessible swings.

"We're proud to support this project, because it provides a safer environment for students while also demonstrating the value of recycling," said Kernan, who serves as director of the Department of Commerce. "Each time kids visit the playground, they'll see proof that the products they and their parents recycle come back into circulation in practical, economical ways."

The new playground surface, which meets safety guidelines, will use approximately 11,583 pounds of recycled rubber, or 571 waste tires, and will serve 300 school children and numerous community members who use the playground. The playground resurfacing will cost a total of \$20,000, and the school has also received support from Ford Motor Co., which is working to promote the reuse of tires.

Recycled Product Purchasing Grants promote the purchase of recycled content products in Indiana. The grants are available for trial or demonstration projects by local government entities throughout the state, including public schools; solid waste management districts; and county, city or town governments. Grants of up to \$5,000 are available per applicant, not to exceed 50 percent of eligible project costs.

The Indiana Recycling Energy Development Board, which meets quarterly, reviews grant proposals and determines awards. The Indiana Department of Commerce's Energy Policy Division administers the program. For more information on this or other recycling programs, please contact Sarah Carney or Tiffany Sorge at 317. 232.8940 or visit the Web site at www.CommerceRecycles.in.gov.

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